

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 18, 2001

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### NEA AWARDS GRANT TO BYRDCLIFFE EXHIBITION

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a \$25,000 grant to a touring exhibition featuring the Byrdcliffe arts colony. "Byrdcliffe: An American Arts and Crafts Colony" celebrates the centennial of the founding of Byrdcliffe.

"Most people think of Woodstock in terms of the historic music festival that took place in Sullivan County in 1969," said Hinchey. "But long before the festival, Woodstock in Ulster County was the home of the Byrdcliffe arts and music community. Byrdcliffe played an important role in the history of American art and it is very appropriate for the federal government to help fund this exhibition."

Founded by Ralph Radcliffe Whitehead in 1902-03, Byrdcliffe is responsible for the first artists coming to Woodstock and consequently changing the cultural landscape of Woodstock throughout the 20th century. It played a key role in the arts and crafts movement in the United States and is the oldest continuing arts colony in the United States. Resting on the hillside of Mt. Guardian overlooking Woodstock, Byrdcliffe consists of 29 original buildings on 300 acres and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Byrdcliffe furniture, drawings and pottery are in the collections of renowned museums throughout the country.

The Woodstock Guild of Craftsmen, which has been the steward of Byrdcliffe since 1976, is producing the Byrdcliffe Centennial Exhibition in partnership with the Herbert F. Johnson Museum at Cornell University. It will open at three artistic venues in Woodstock in June 2003 before traveling to other sites. Earlier this year the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a \$10,000 grant to Cornell to help arrange for the necessary consultations with scholars and museum professionals.